

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-6 and 36-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by KIM et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,751); rejects claims 19-21 and 29-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by LEVINE (U.S. Patent No. 6,504,818); rejects claims 23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by SUSNOW et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0159385); rejects claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over LEVINE in view of BARANYAI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,499,577); rejects claims 24 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over SUSNOW in view of BARANYAI et al.; rejects claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over SUSNOW in view of KIM et al.; rejects claims 39 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over KIM (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,768) in view of LEVINE; objects claims 25 and 40 as dependent upon a rejected base claim; and allows claims 7 and 9-18.

By way of the present amendment, Applicants propose canceling claims 1-6, 19-22, 24, 25, 29-38, and 40 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amending claims 23, 26, 27, and 39 to improve form. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 7, 9-18, 23, 26-28, 39, and 41 would remain pending upon entry of the present amendment.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 7 and 9-18 are allowable over the art of record. Moreover, Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 25 and 40 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

Claims 1-6 and 36-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by KIM et al. Applicants propose canceling claims 1-6 and 36-38 herein, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Claims 19-21 and 29-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by LEVINE. Applicants propose canceling claims 19-21 and 29-35 herein, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Claims 23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by SUSNOW. Applicants propose amending claim 23 herein to include the subject matter of claim 25, which the Examiner indicates would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 23 and claim 26, which depends from claim 23, are in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over LEVINE in view of BARANYAI et al. Applicants propose canceling claim 22 herein, thereby rendering the rejection of that claim moot.

Claims 24 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over SUSNOW in view of BARANYAI et al. Applicants propose canceling claims 24 and 28 herein, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over SUSNOW in view of KIM et al. Applicants propose canceling claim 27 herein, thereby rendering the rejection of that claim moot.

Claims 39 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over KIM in view of LEVINE. Applicants propose amending claim 39

herein to include the subject matter of claim 40, which the Examiner indicates would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 39 and claim 41, which depends from claim 39, are in immediate condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicants respectfully request that the present amendment be entered because the present amendment places the application in immediate condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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